

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Peter RUMPEL et al DOCKET NO.: P05,0334  
SERIAL NO.: 10/550,933 CONFIRMATION NO.: 4641  
FILED: September 28, 2005 GROUP ART UNIT: 2852  
INVENTION: **METHOD FOR HANDLING AN ENDLESS BELT FOR AN  
ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTER AND A STORAGE  
UNIT HAVING A RETAINING DEVICE FOR THIS ENDLESS  
BELT**

**MAIL STOP PCT**

Commissioner for Patents,  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**SUBMITTAL OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

S I R:

Attached herewith is the English translation of the International Preliminary  
Examination Report on patentability.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 27,841)  
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**TRANSLATION****PATENT COOPERATION TREATY****PCT****INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>2003-0403P</b>		<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	See Form PCT/IPEA/416																								
International application No. <b>PCT/EP2004/003919</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>14.04.2004</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>14.04.2003</b>																									
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC																											
Applicant <b>OCÉ PRINTING SYSTEMS GMBH</b>																											
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of _____ sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table border="0"><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. I</td><td>Basis of the report</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. II</td><td>Priority</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. III</td><td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. IV</td><td>Lack of unity of invention</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. V</td><td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VI</td><td>Certain documents cited</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VII</td><td>Certain defects in the international application</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VIII</td><td>Certain observations on the international application</td></tr></table>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand		Date of completion of this report																									
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP		Authorized officer																									
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.																									

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/003919

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1, 4-15 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* 2, 3 \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on 13.12.2004 with letter of 13.12.2004
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.\* 1-30 \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on 13.12.2004 with letter of 13.12.2004
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/6-6/6 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/003919

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-30	YES
	Claims	-	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-30	YES
	Claims	-	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-30	YES
	Claims	-	NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 5 119 133 (02/06/1992)

D2: US 5 163 265 (17/11/1992)

D3: US 3 186 543 (01/06/1965)

D4: US 3 332 546 (25/07/1967)

D5: US 4 811 839 (14/03/1989)

D6: US 3 888 577 (10/06/1975)

D1 is considered to be the prior art closest to the subject matter of claims 1 and 16. Said document discloses (fig. 2, 3) a method for handling an endless belt for an electrophotographic printer or copier, and a unit consisting of an endless belt 10 and of a holding device formed from a first, a second and a third cylindrical body 80, 96, 84. In the disclosed method and unit the endless belt 10 is supported by means of a first, a second and a third cylindrical body 80, 96, 84, with the first cylindrical body 80 inserted through the loop of the endless belt, with the second cylindrical body arranged outside the loop of the endless belt, and with the endless belt wound around the first and the second cylindrical body, and, before or while the endless belt is wound around the first and the second cylindrical

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

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Box No. VIII      Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

**Clarity**

The unit in claim 28 refers back to claims 16-27.